

Dear SIC Members and Supporters:

This issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (Volume 5, Issue 2) is sent to share information of special interest to our state's School Improvement Councils.

Have You Held Your SIC Elections for 2012-13? – The statutory deadline for election of parent and teacher SIC members (and students, in the case of high schools) is **October 15**. As part of the SIC elections process, solicit nominations (people can self-nominate or nominate others), asking for brief bios on nominees and why they'd like to be elected to your SIC. Include these bios (and a picture, if possible) on your ballot materials. Elections can be conducted by paper ballot sent home with students, at open houses, during PTA/PTO meetings, and at faculty meetings. Remember that parents are to elect other parents, teachers elect fellow teachers, and students elect their peers to serve on the SIC. Make sure to advertise both the nominations process and elections in your school newsletter, on your school marquee, the school's website, and by any other means you believe will maximize participation.

Schedule SIC Trainings in Your District – The fall semester of each school year is typically the busiest SC-SIC training season, although trainings are conducted across the state throughout the year. Now is the time to think about scheduling trainings for your SIC members for 2012-13. Whether its training conducted by one of our certified SIC District Contacts or district-wide training provided by SC-SIC staff, such sessions are vital to new and more seasoned SIC members so that they can know more about their roles and responsibilities to their school communities. Schedule your training today as the training schedule can fill up quickly! For more on SIC training opportunities, visit the SC-SIC website at <http://sic.sc.gov> and click on the "Training and Resources" tab.

Does Your SIC Deserve Statewide Recognition for Its Work? – It's that time of year for local SICs to prepare their applications for SC-SIC's annual Dick and Tunky Riley Award for School Improvement Council Excellence. This award was created in 2002 to honor the significant contributions made to public education by the nearly 15,000 School Improvement Council members and the 1,100-plus SICs which serve every public school in South Carolina. The award is named in honor of former SC Governor and US Education Secretary Dick Riley and his late wife, Tunky, and recognizes the couple's longstanding commitment to quality public education. The deadline for Level One applications for the Riley Award is **Monday, November 19**. For more information on the Riley Award, including application materials, award process timeline, and other award information and guidelines, visit the SC-SIC website at <http://sic.sc.gov> and click on the "Awards and Recognitions" tab.

18 Named to 2012-13 SC Education Policy Fellowship Program – Eighteen (18) professional and civic leaders from across South Carolina have been selected to participate in the SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) for 2012-13. SC-EPFP is a 10-month intensive professional development program for established and emerging leaders in education and related fields to help equip them in working toward sound education policy and practice in South Carolina. SC-EPFP Fellows participate in a variety of activities that promote leadership, develop professional networks, demystify education policy, and foster a greater understanding of the roles of government and the community. The South Carolina site is coordinated through the SC School Improvement Council in the College of Education at the University of South Carolina, with assistance from the SC Department of Education's Office of School Leadership. To learn more about SC-EPFP and this year's 18 Fellows, visit <http://sic.sc.gov> and click on the "SC Education Policy Program" tab.

Drop Out Prevention College and Career Access Summit Set for September 27 – The Midlands Education & Business Alliance and the Midlands Regional Education Center are sponsoring a free Drop Out Prevention College and Career Access Summit on **Thursday, September 27**, 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., at Midlands Technical College's Airport Campus in West Columbia. The target audience for the summit includes K-12 administrators, guidance personnel, teachers, school/agency social workers, adult education personnel, School Improvement Council members, and parents. To register (by **September 18**), visit the home page of the SC-SIC website, <http://sic.sc.gov>, and click on the registration link.

Parents and Community Members Needed to Testify at Public Hearings – South Carolina's Joint Citizens and Legislative Committee on Children will hold two (2) public hearings – in the Pee Dee and the Midlands – to identify important issues and recommendations for children in the state. The Pee Dee public hearing is set for **Tuesday, October 2**, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., in the Ervin Dining Hall Palmetto Room at Francis Marion University in Florence. The Midlands hearing is set for **Monday, October 8**, 4:00 to 6:30 p.m., in Room 308 of the Gressette Building on the South Carolina State House grounds. Parents and community members are specially invited to testify for up to five (5) minutes on topics including child health, safety, education, juvenile justice, development, and other areas pertinent to child well-being in the state. If you have never testified at a hearing before and have questions about doing so, please feel free to contact Cassie Barber or Tom Hudson at the SC-SIC office, **1-800-868-2232**, for assistance. For more information, visit the Committee on Children website, www.sccommitteeonchildren.org.

Remember, *SIC Clips & Quips* is sent to all SIC members and supporters who share their email addresses with us. Please feel free to print this information out and share it with fellow SIC members who may not have received it. We are here to help you, so please contact us any time!

Tom

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"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

